

Torrance Herald

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SLIGHT DROP IN FIRST DAY ATTENDANCE

Enrollment Figures Show
Decrease First Time in
Years

ENROLLMENT	
Torrance High	622
Elementary	858
Fern Street	146
Walteria	144
Total	1770

Total enrollment for Torrance schools fell below the figures for the first day of school in 1931 by .5 per cent. At the opening of school in 1931, 1854 pupils had registered, as compared with 1770 for the same date this year.

Considering the local conditions in the city of Torrance with a number of people moving in and out during the past few months the enrollment may be said to compare favorably with that of the preceding year.

The greatest drop in attendance was shown at the Torrance elementary school which dropped 85 below the total of 1931. Kindergarten classes at the Torrance elementary lack 10 of the required number of 75 to maintain two teachers but it is expected that the number will be made up within a few days.

A number of new teachers have been assigned to the Torrance elementary school. They are Ruth Evelyn, Edna Jennings, Nell K. Ryan, Eunice Ray, Helen Dalton, Lydia Turner, Norma Bowen, Grace Sweet, Edna Marlan Bliss, Nell Lynch is the new teacher of agriculture at this school. Teachers reassigned to the elementary school are Professor William E. Bell, principal; Lida K. Deleissegues, vice principal; Leona L. T. Holland, Louvina Boudinet, Armeta P. Ford, Gertrude P. Hayden, Sylvia Nelson, Cora M. Holt, Helen C. Berry, Edna K. Russell, Lyle Louise Sody Husted, Grace M. Dufurham, Mabel H. S. Peterson, Nellie M. Bradford, Laura M. Thomas, Besse E. Swisher, Madeline B. Murphy, Alice J. Boehme, Bernice Lloyd, Bessie E. Haskin, Juliet M. Young, Mabel-Ella B. Sweet, Eleanor Allen and Hilda Powell.

At the Torrance high school, first day attendance exceeded that of 1931 by 27, the total being 622 as compared with 595 for last year.

Enrollment for the first day of school at Walteria totaled 144, a loss of 5.8 per cent below the figures of last September when 153 children attended. Attendance at the Walteria kindergarten is up to the mark required by the board of education for this department, and according to Principal Merle R. Helbach the opening attendance of 25 may be increased by the end of the week. Miss Marguerite Weiss, a new teacher at the school will be in charge of the kindergarten.

Other new teachers at Walteria are Mrs. Rose Morris, Mrs. Daisy Russell and Julia Lucock, with Principal Merle R. Helbach, Ethel Millington and Rose Joffe to complete the staff.

At the Fern avenue school, an enrollment of 145 was reported, a loss of 18 pupils from the number registered in September 1931. This may be due in part to a desire on the part of parents to delay entering their children until the new Fern avenue school building is ready, which they believe will be in two or three weeks. This however is not the case, as it is probable that the building will not be ready until the opening of the new semester in February. The reduced attendance at the kindergarten class at this school is also due to this erroneous idea, according to Principal Guy Holliday. Only 22 pupils had registered in the kindergarten on the opening day, which number is below the required 25 pupils necessary to maintain the class. Should the enrollment fall to reach 25 by the end of the week, the class may be abandoned for the semester, since the board of education this year is endeavoring to hold down the expenses of school operation by discontinuing classes in which a sufficient number have not enrolled.

At the Fern avenue school Miss Margaret E. Hollenbach replaces Miss Mabel Spencer, who was forced to remain on the probationary list because of illness which kept her from completing the full three years of teaching service. No other changes were made in the staff at this school.

Around the Council Table

A large number of routine and minor municipal matters were disposed of at the Tuesday night session of the Torrance city council, the most important of which are given below:

FERN ST. SCHOOL.—Fern and Eldorado avenues adjoining the new school will be paved 30 feet instead of 15 feet, as originally planned, the council was advised by the Los Angeles board of education. The school board's original plan called for paving only half the street, which action was protested by the council on recommendation of City Engineer Leonard. Due to the fact that property owners were unwilling or unable to stand the cost of paving the other half of the streets, the school board allotted \$2160 additional for improving the streets the full 30 feet. The plan for constructing a cesspool to serve the new school was also abandoned and a sewer line will be run to connect with the city's sewer system, the board advised.

THANKS MAYOR AND COUNCIL.—A communication expressing appreciation of the efforts of Mayor Klusman for his aid in securing county aid for Alondra Park district property owners was received from the Gardenia Tax Reduction League. A similar communication from the Alondra Park Citizens' League was addressed to the Torrance councilmen.

BOY SCOUT AID.—Action on a request for a \$350 appropriation to the Torrance Boy Scout council was deferred until the next meeting of the city council in order to study the legal phase of making such a donation. The matter was referred to the Chamber of Commerce for recommendation, Scout Commissioner F. L. Parks and Frank Buffington spoke in favor of the appropriation. Parks explained that he had been able to secure a reduction of the annual payment from the Los Angeles Scout Council from \$400 to \$200. The balance of the \$350 requested is intended to pay for repairs and painting of the Scout building on Carson street.

GAS TAX AID.—At the request of the Automobile Club of Southern California the council is considering the question of asking aid from the state for funding for the construction and maintenance of major highways through municipalities.

PALM AVE. DRAINAGE.—An estimate for the construction of a drainage cesspool on Palm avenue near Narbonne was received from Couch & Newman. It called for sinking a hole 30 inches wide and 60 to 70 feet deep, to be lined with galvanized iron pipe, the lower 40 feet of which is to be perforated. The price quoted was \$350 per foot. Action on the matter was deferred until further estimates could be secured.

ST. NAMES IN WALTERIA.—Action on the painting of street names on curbs and street posts in Walteria was held over, until the county made certain changes in the names of streets to conform with the county plan.

INSURANCE AWARDED.—A fleet insurance policy covering all city cars and protecting the city against damage suits was awarded to Wallace Gilbert. The annual premium on the fleet policy is \$108. Another policy covering the engineer's automobile and protecting the city against damages resulting from employes while driving their own cars on city business was awarded to Howard G. Locke.

SMELTER FUMES.—Rev. Ben Lingenfelter protested against the continuance of fumes from the Pacific Smelting Company plant on Western avenue, claiming that the fumes were preventing residents in the neighborhood from sleeping at night. Lingenfelter claimed that the fumes were damaging property and threatened to sue the city for damages if the alleged nuisance was not abated. City Engineer Leonard reported that the matter was being investigated by the county health department and asked that Lingenfelter and other residents in the neighborhood of the smelter assist him in securing evidence to present to the health department.

SCHOOL BUSES.—Councilman Ludlow requested the city clerk to communicate with the board of education asking that drivers of school buses pick up more children, at least to the capacity of the buses. Ludlow claimed that big buses were arriving at the school with only a dozen children in them while others along the route were left to walk.

FIRE TRUCK TRADE-IN.—Councilman Ludlow's proposal that

FIREMAN ENDS LIFE FRIDAY WITH SHOTGUN

Paul M. Rowley of Lomita
Station Found Dead
In Hills

Paul M. Rowley, fireman at the Lomita station, was found dead at the south end of Fairview avenue in the Palos Verdes foothills Friday morning, a 12-gauge Winchester shotgun by his side, a mute witness of self-destruction.

Rowley, who had left the station Wednesday on his day off, apparently in his usual good health and spirits, failed to return to duty on Thursday, and no word from the missing fireman, except a phone call Wednesday afternoon, was received until about 7:30 Friday morning when H. D. Phillips called the office of Constable C. R. Taber and reported the finding of the body of an unidentified man lying beside an automobile in an unfrequented spot just off Apollon Way.

Constable William Neff was detailed to the investigation and the facts were reported to the homicide squad. The automobile was the property of Carl Schultz, also a fireman at the Lomita station, which Rowley had borrowed on Wednesday. The finding of Schultz' car at the scene gave rise to an early report that the dead man was Schultz, but this erroneous rumor was dissipated when Schultz went to the scene and identified the body as that of his associate, P. M. Rowley. The man had placed the muzzle of a 12-gauge Winchester shotgun, also borrowed property, secured from Clarence Miller, in his mouth and pulled the trigger. The entire top of his head was blown away.

Rowley had been at the Lomita station about six months, transferred there from engine crew No. 14, located at 99th and Normandie. He was about 28 years of age, had been married and divorced. He was the son of J. T. Rowley, a furniture dealer of Compton. Financial difficulties are assumed to have been the cause of his regrettable act.

The body was taken to Stone & Myers undertaking parlors in Torrance, and later removed to Watts after a representative from the coroner's office had viewed the remains and issued a death certificate. No inquest was held, the circumstances clearly indicating self-destruction.

To Investigate High Water Rate

Water Bond Suit May Be In
Court Two Years Yet,
Councilman Says

A move to investigate the possibility of securing lower water rates from the Torrance Water, Light & Power Company was launched at Tuesday night's council meeting by Councilman Scott Ludlow, who stated that he thought an effort should be made to get together with water company officials in an endeavor to agree on a rate reduction.

At Ludlow's suggestion a committee was appointed to study the situation and determine the advisability of asking the railroad commission for a lower rate. Mayor Klusman appointed himself and Councilmen Ludlow and Hitchcock on the committee.

City Attorney Jensen reported that both parties to the water bond suit had filed their briefs and that the case would soon be placed on the calendar. He stated that as soon as the case is put on the court calendar, Mr. Beebe, the city's special counsel, informed him (Jensen) that he would petition the court to have the case advanced to an earlier date on a plea that men are being deprived of work because of court delay. Ludlow stated that for all he knew the suit might be in the courts two years yet, and in the meantime, he thought something should be done to give Torrance people relief from the high water rates. He pointed out that the present rate was set by the railroad commission in 1923, when the water company had fewer consumers than it has today. The investigation committee is to report back to the council in two weeks.

Contractor Sued For Expense of Injured Worker

Insurance Company Seeks
Reimbursement For
Hospital Bills

For injuries received by John Stadille while at work on the addition to Torrance high school on October 2, 1929, Mitty Brothers contractors, were asked to pay \$200 in a suit filed in Los Angeles superior court this week. The action was brought by the National Automobile Insurance Company, and seeks moneys from the contractor to reimburse the insurance company for money paid out on the injured man's hospital bills.

The complaint asserts that Stadille's injuries were due to an act of one of the Mitty Brothers workmen, J. W. Bailey. It is asserted that he threw or let fall a work bench from the second floor of the school in such a manner that it landed on Stadille's head and shoulders. The insurance company had on July 10 issued policies of workmen's compensation insurance, and it fell to them to take care of the injured man. Hospital care cost \$490 and loss of time brought the total up to \$2010, the complaint asserts.

Move to Submit Repeal of 10c Tax Fails

A motion to place a proposition before voters at the November election for the repeal of the ten cent promotion tax was defeated by a tie vote at Tuesday night's council meeting. The motion was made by Councilman Wright and seconded by Councilman Ludlow. Mayor Klusman and Councilman Hitchcock voted against the motion. Councilman Conner was

COUNCILMAN WRIGHT CORRECTS STATEMENT

"To the Editor of the Herald,
"Dear Sir,
"To correct a statement made at the council meeting Tuesday night I would like to call the attention of the public to the fact that none of the Chamber of Commerce fund (so called) or the cut in the street lighting —out in salaries—cut in wages—has anything to do with the unemployment fund this year. All these items were used to reduce the budget. Five cents was added to the tax rate for the unemployed.
"Yours respectfully,
"J. Manter Wright,
"1024 Arlington St."

absent. Mayor Klusman stated that the reason he voted against the motion was that he thought such a proposition should originate with the voters instead of being initiated by the council.

Wright Explains
Before moving for the repeal of the promotion tax ordinance, Councilman Wright reviewed the history of the promotion tax battle at the April election. He stated that he believed the majority of voters intended to repeal the tax but due to a confusion and misunderstanding of the two ballots, the ten cent tax was retained. Wright stated that under the state law, the council could levy up to five cents on the tax rate for promotional activities. He stated that he was not opposed to financing the Chamber of Commerce out of tax money, but that he thought the appropriation should be made by the council instead of by ordinance.

Spends \$3 Now
At present, the chamber is operating under a contract with the city, which allows the chamber \$6000 per year, or approximately three cents per \$100 assessed valuation. The balance of the ten cent tax levy is reserved by the council for park maintenance and such special appropriations of a promotional nature as it may see fit to approve.

Municipal League to Visit Torrance

The Los Angeles League of Municipalities has accepted an invitation to hold its next meeting in Torrance. Mayor Klusman told the city council this week. The league is composed of city officials of many cities in the county. The meeting is to be held here on October 13 and will be preceded by a dinner. Mayor Klusman did not say where the dinner-meeting was to be held.

Waidelich Replaces Prof. Wood As Principal at Torrance High

When students at the Torrance high school assembled Monday to resume their studies after the summer vacation, they were surprised to learn that their former principal, Herbert S. Wood, had been transferred to the principalship at Van Nuys high school, and that Arthur G. Waidelich, former vice president of Frank Wiggins trade school in Los Angeles, had been assigned as chief executive at Torrance high.

Both transfers are promotions made by the Los Angeles board of education in recognition of meritorious work. The Van Nuys school has 1300 students, nearly twice the enrollment at Torrance, and the principalship at Torrance high entails greater responsibilities than Prof. Waidelich's former position in the trade school. Prof. Wood as principal of Southern California and Van Nuys, who in turn has also been promoted to the principalship of the Fremont high school.

Well Qualified
Prof. Waidelich's seven years' experience at the big Frank Wiggins trade school will enable him to better understand the problems of an industrial school such as Torrance, where the demand for vocational training is greater than for academic study. However, the new Torrance principal has been thoroughly schooled in academic work as well. He had two years in engineering at Purdue university. He majored and graduated from the University of Chicago. He has a master's degree from the University of Southern California and took a teacher's training course at U. C. L. A.

War Service
During the war, Prof. Waidelich was a captain in the U. S. Army sanitary corps and later was assigned to the task of rehabilitating disabled veterans at the Presidio hospital in San Francisco. After discharge from the army, Waidelich remained in government service as chief of training in the U. S. veterans' bureau in Los Angeles, which position he held for five years, and until he joined the staff of the Frank Wiggins trade school seven years ago.

Three Children
Mr. and Mrs. Waidelich have three children, a daughter, Ardis, who will enter U. C. L. A. this year; James, Jr., who is a senior in high school, and John, age 6.

Three Named On Democratic State Central Committee

Members of the Democratic state central committee for the 68th assembly district were announced this week at Dr. Charles McQuarrie and Mrs. Edwina Van Velder of Gardena and Edward L. Mulligan of San Pedro.

Charles J. Colden, Democratic nominee for congress in the 17th district, and J. T. Rawls, Democratic nominee to the state assembly from this district, are in Sacramento this week attending the state rally.

Conner Elected to Central Committee

Revised figures showing the vote on members of the Democratic county central committee, just released by the registrar of voters' office, show the election of C. Earl Conner of Torrance as one of the seven.

McDonald Tract Association to Meet Next Wed.

McDonald Tract Taxpayers' Association will hold its regular meeting at the Perry school house on Prairie avenue, Wednesday, September 21, at 8 p. m. it was announced by F. A. Matson, president, this week.

Mr. Matson asks that members note the change of day to Wednesday instead of Friday, and stated that matters of importance to everyone in the district will be considered. Everyone in the McDonald tract is urged to attend, he said.

**BEAUTY SHOPS MUST
RENEW LICENSES**
Renewals of licenses for beauty shops and operators must be made next month, according to a warning sent out by the state board of cosmetology. Louise J. Frape, inspector of Los Angeles, paid a visit to local shops on Monday.

Dog Owners Beware!

New Dog License Law
Goes Into Effect Today,
—and It's Just too Bad
for "Towser"

"You better get a license for that dog of yours,"—cause the new air-tight dog license ordinance goes into effect today. The official ordinance, as printed on another page of this issue, imposes a yearly license fee of \$1 per year for male dogs and \$2 per year for female dogs. In case the owner of some fond puppy is financially embarrassed, Councilman Hitchcock, chairman of the public works committee, has agreed to let the owner "work out the license fee" in the street department.

The ordinance as originally drafted called for license fees of \$2 and \$4, but before final passage Tuesday night, the council cut these rates in half. Those who have paid the higher license fees since July 1, may obtain rebates from the city clerk.

P. G. Bennett of Walteria has been proposed as official pound master, and the council Tuesday night instructed the city attorney to draw up a contract under the terms of the ordinance with Mr. Bennett. The pound master receives no salary, but gets a fifty-fifty split on license fees as well as the board and lodging of impounded dogs or other animals.

The pound master collects one dollar for every dog impounded by him and two dollars in cases where he has called for the dog.

Dog licenses may be obtained at the city hall.

Heavy Vote Cast In District For Co. Committee

Official Count Released This
Week by Registrar of
Voters

Republicans cast a heavier vote than Democrats for county central committee men from the 68th assembly district, embracing Torrance, according to a tabulation of ballots released today by W. M. Kerr, county registrar of voters.

Harry M. Carr topped the list for the C. O. P., while John Tracy Gaffey polled the greatest number among the Democrats.

Republican county central committee men elected at the August 30 primaries were L. S. Anderson, with 3003; Charles A. Brazee, 2162; Harry M. Carr, 3016; Wilder W. Hartley, 2249; Marguerite A. Mann, 2338; Frank M. McGinley, 2903, and Leslie G. Motz, 2826.

Defeated C. O. P. candidates in the 68th district were Omar Avian, 1457; William S. Baldwin, 1975; Carleton B. Bell, 1762; Perry G. Briney, 1333; Harry E. Falrall, 1955; Homer B. Gilbert, 1465; Emil L. Menvege, 1502; E. M. Mosher, 1221; Lawrence D. Powers, 1180; William A. Renter, 1441; Fred H. Story, 1211, and Wycoff B. Westover, 1172.

Democratic county central committee chosen were John B. Avian, 2374; Lee S. Buckley, 2028; C. Earl Conner, 2028.

Findley Named On Central Committee

Members of the Republican state central committee from the 68th district appointed recently by Assemblyman Ben A. Hill include Don Findley of Torrance, C. P. Roberts of Wilmington and W. H. Bastedo of San Pedro.

The members serve for two years.

Jury Finds Defendant Not Guilty In Battery Case

A jury of 12 women returned a verdict of "Not guilty" in the case brought before Judge John Dennis last Thursday in which Freda Carson of Wilmington was plaintiff and Mary Sue Carpenter of Long Beach, defendant. The case, which was a long, drawn out affair, was the result of a physical combat between the two women at the Royal Palms dance pavilion on July 16.

The jury was composed of Frances Hathaway, forewoman; Helen Wells, Mary Rief, Molly C. Tonkin, Marie M. Kerber, Catharine B. Pink, Ella F. Sprout, Ger-

WORK STARTS ON AQUEDUCT IN FEW WEEKS

Reconstruction Finance Corporation Acts Favorably
On Bond Sale

Construction of the Colorado river aqueduct, in which project Torrance as a member of the Metropolitan Water District is vitally interested, may start within the next 60 days, according to announcements made yesterday of the action of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation in regard to the sale of the district bonds.

Approval by the Finance Corporation of the purchase of \$40,000,000 of the district's bonds, will make speedy action on the aqueduct possible.

This sum will finance construction for the next two years, after which the work will be continued through the public sale of the remainder of the \$220,000,000 bond issue.

Not all of the \$40,000,000 will be advanced at once, but half of the sum will be available the first year and the balance will be forthcoming prior to January 23, 1934.

That the Reconstruction Finance Corporation considered this project as one of the highest importance is shown by the fact that it is the first major project of this character to be approved and given assistance. Five engineer's consultants to the corporation, recommended the plan.

Although it is confidently expected that work will start on the new construction within a short time, no applications for work will be received until the money is in hand. Due to the necessary legal formalities, this will probably not be received until the latter part of October. Formal announcement of the date when applications will be considered will be made through the district board at the proper time. Under the arrangement, whereby each community is entitled to a certain proportion of work distribution, Torrance will be apportioned one per cent of the jobs, or approximately 100 during the first two years.

Call For Bids On New Bridge Over Compton Creek

Bids will be opened Monday, September 26, on the proposal to construct a bridge across Compton creek on Los Angeles street, also known as Del Amo street, which is decided this week by the county board of supervisors.

This is a separate project from the Del Amo street bridge across the Los Angeles river, for which the board of supervisors have agreed to allocate funds to cover the lowest bid submitted.

Construction of the two bridges will provide a much-needed cross-over between Torrance and North Long Beach.

Citizenship Class Open For Students

Charles Kelson, superintendent of the naturalization department of the Los Angeles city schools will maintain a citizenship class in Torrance, who wish to become naturalized, on Thursday evening, September 22, at 7 o'clock at the evening high school. Unless a sufficient number of students enroll in this class, there will be no teacher assigned to Torrance, and those who wish to take the work will be compelled to do so at San Pedro or Los Angeles.

George Kemp handled the prosecution, and J. E. Ingram of Long Beach appeared for the defense. A number of witnesses were called on both sides and the case was not concluded until after 6 o'clock.

An interested audience followed the proceedings, which were spiced with frequent clashes between the two attorneys. The trial was the first jury trial to be held in the new courtroom.